

UFO RESEARCH NEWSLETTER

A REPORT ON UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

vol. IV, No. 10

February - March 1976

UFO OVER NEW MEXICO

A flying object that was apparently tracked on radar and observed by two policemen was seen over Southern New Mexico recently.

At about 5:30 p.m., January 23, 1976, City Marshal Will Ronquillo, Texaco, N.M., received a call that a UFO had landed in the vicinity. He investigated and saw a cigar-shaped object with six white, twinkling lights that hovered at approximately 900 feet altitude. Meanwhile, a New Mexico state policeman joined Ronquillo.

Ronquillo, the only policeman in the small border town, pulled up under the object, which then moved very fast. The city marshal pursued the object. Then the two law enforcement officers watched as the UFO executed two turns in the sky and traveled north "very, very fast." Ronquillo indicated the object was huge.

Residents of Tucumcari and Portales also saw the UFO. The Albuquerque Air Traffic Control Center at Tucumcari reportedly tracked the object on radar.

A few minutes after the Texaco sighting, a private pilot flying over the Rio Grande River near Santa Fe saw a bright object flying very fast toward Albuquerque.

Bruce Kennedy and Jay Harper, of UFOR's New Mexico Subcommittee, investigated the incidents. Kennedy said there have been a series of reports from the northern part of the state in recent weeks. A complete report on the sightings is being prepared.

1975 REPORTS WORLDWIDE

Occupants; UFOs that caused physiological and electromagnetic effects, animal reactions and emitted sounds; objects that were photographed, landed and took off, emitted light beams, paced cars and left behind physical evidence were characteristics of sighting reports from at least 10 states and three foreign countries during the period February-December, 1975. Witnesses included pilots, police officers, a town mayor and foreign military personnel. Due to lack of space, the reports will be listed in capsule form, with all pertinent information intact.

- November 19. South of Richmond, Va. Capt. C.S. Wilson was piloting an Eastern Airlines plane when he saw "what I first thought to be a formation of three or four aircraft above us," stated the *Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal*, November 22, 1975. The objects were seen for 5-6 seconds as the aircraft was descending "from 24,000 feet to 15,000 feet in preparation for landing at Washington's National Airport." Wilson said the UFOs were about 2,000 feet above the plane, going from east to west. Both Defense Department and National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials said no missiles had been fired in the area.

- May 6. Evening. Cameron, W.Va. Elmer Salisbury, his daughter, Kim, and her friend, Julie Carey, were playing basketball on a high school court when they spotted a "green-blue glob" about 25 feet over the school that caused the witnesses to feel "static electricity." The object hovered nearby as the observers entered their car to leave. The vehicle wouldn't start, according to the May 13, 1975, edition of the *Cameron News*.

- December 14. Evening. St. Johns, Flagler and Putnam Counties, Fla. At least a dozen policemen and others reported seeing "a multicolored... object the size of three football fields." Hastings residents said they saw the rainbow-colored UFO fly sideways and land in a wooded area, said the *Los Angeles (Calif.) Herald Examiner*, December 15, 1975.

(Continued on page 2)

UFO Research Newsletter, Vol. IV, No. 10. Published monthly or bi-monthly by UFO Research Associates (UFOR), 3122 N. Beachwood Dr., Los Angeles, Calif. 90068
 Editor: Gordon I.R. Lore, Jr.
 Business Manager: Martha D. Lore
 Subscription rates (12 issues):
 \$7.00 (U.S., Canada and Mexico);
 \$8.00 (foreign, surface rate);
 \$11.00 (foreign, air mail). Single copies: \$.60 (U.S., Canada and Mexico); \$.80 (foreign).

UFO COURSE AT NEW YORK COLLEGE IN PROGRESS

A five-week course entitled "UFOs: An Introduction" is currently in progress at Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, N.Y. Long-time UFO researcher and investigator Robert E. Barrow is the instructor.

Classes meet every Tuesday from 7:30-10 p.m., January 27-March 2, and are being offered through the college's Division of Continuing Education. The following appeared in the division's Spring course announcement schedule: "This course is designed to offer students a sampling of modern UFO history, primarily from the 1940s to the present, and deals

mainly with events on the national level (some earlier sightings and foreign sightings will be touched upon). The course presupposes that the UFO is a real, existent anomaly whose identity must be reckoned with through sober, structural investigation. The intention of the course includes attempting to clear up some of the myths and misunderstandings about the UFO subject while... allowing for classroom discussion of the views and evidence presented."

In a letter to UFOR, Barrow said the course will focus on UFO witnesses, some classic UFO sightings, the government's involvement with the subject, and private UFO organizations and individuals. Information from UFOR will be included in the course.

1975 Reports (Continued from page 1)

Illinois residents reported seeing UFOs during the late Fall.

● November 14. About 6 a.m. Macomb. An unidentified man saw "a black object sitting in a farm field about the distance of three city blocks on his right, *The Quincy* (Ill.) *Herald-Whig*, November 16, 1975, stated. Then the UFO "shot straight up," stopped and hovered at an estimated 500 feet altitude. Four minutes later, it "turned completely white" and disappeared quickly at an angle.

● November 15. Around 4:15 a.m. Near Clayton. An unidentified woman said a saucer "with long legs and white lights under it" paced her car and landed on the road in front of her, according to the November 16, 1975, edition of *The Quincy Herald-Whig*. As she hit the brakes, "the object quickly took off."

● April 9. Evening. Boyne City-Boyne Falls-Mullett Lake, Mich., areas. At 8:56 p.m., an unidentified resident of Mullett Lake saw an object that flew from the northwest "in a zig-zag path, up and down," the Cheboygan, Mich., *Daily Tribune*, April 10, 1975, said. It descended and hovered approximately 200 feet above the lake, emitting beams from two brilliant lights onto the water. Almost one hour later -- at about 9:45 -- Mrs. Rebecca Davis and her son, Steven, observed a UFO near Boyne City. "[We] had gone to Boyne City to the movies and were on our way back home...", Mrs. Davis explained in the April 17, 1975, edition of the Boyne City *Charlevoix County Press*. "We saw an enormous object over Lake Shore Drive. It was very bright, brighter than sparks on a welder.... It went higher... I felt like I was floating... It looked like a pot spinning. There was something on top and it was spraying green, blue, orange, and red lights.... My hands were perspiring and Steven broke out in a bad case of hives. When we got in the house, the dog was raising Cain, but wouldn't go outside. My friend, Richard Johnson, was here and he said he saw a honeycomb-like object.... We called the sheriff's department and they had somebody here in five minutes. It was farther away then, but they could still see it. It was very bright. There was no sound at all, but we wondered if there was some frequency that the dogs could hear. My daughter, Linda, told us that dogs in town were going crazy." Deputy Sheriffs Dennis Christensen and Brock Dagner responded to the call. They were about a quarter of a mile from the Davis home when they saw it. "I used binoculars and couldn't focus on any definite shape," Christensen stated. "It was a brilliant light and a fuzzy shape with red, blue, green and white pulsating lights racing around the middle. The size was... four or five times larger than a star." The UFO "disappeared instantly and then reappeared far away." Meanwhile, Leon Jarema, a commercial aviator, and his wife were driving north of Boyne Falls when they saw the UFO.

● April 2. About 9 p.m. East of Cass Lake, Minn. John and Peter Neises, Tommy Reuter, and Jim Utley were snowmobiling when they observed "a sort of diamond-shaped form with three flashing red and green lights." After authorities were notified, Mayor Dick Neises and Police Officer James Davies joined the boys to watch the phenomenon. "When I first went down to the lake, all I noticed was a small white dot at the end of the handle of the Big Dipper...", Mayor Neises related. "It moved across the sky in a southeasterly direction and disappeared quickly in about three seconds. I've never seen anything move that fast. Then another white dot moved from west to east very rapidly." While they were watching, Davies said, "another set of lights crossed the sky." A jet passed near one of the objects, which was stationary. The witnesses heard a sonic boom "and the smaller white dot approached the plane." "It made a sharp right angle turn and started after the plane," John Neises stated. "Going twice as fast as the jet, it just passed him up." Then "the dot veered off and disappeared." The other objects eventually disappeared to the south. [Sources: *Bemidji (Minn.) Pioneer*, April 7, 1975; and *The Cass Lake Times*, April 10, 1975].

● May 7. Approximately 8 p.m. Near Pittsburg, Kans. Ed Leikan, photo editor of *The* (Kansas State College) *Collegio*, and Harrison Spears, a *Collegio* photographer, had been taking pictures of a storm and were driving when they saw a UFO. Leikan was able to take three quick photographs as the object "made an abrupt turn and sped off to the southeast," stated the *Pittsburg Morning-Sun*, May 17, 1975.

● March 30. Around 10:30 p.m. Near Hot Springs, S.D. Rebecca Remos, her husband and son were driving and observed "a white light about the size of a basketball," according to the Rapid City, S.O., *Journal*, March 31, 1975. The UFO paced the automobile into Buffalo Gap, where "it disappeared behind some hills." A short while later, a red light about "three times the size of a shoebox" appeared and followed the car "to about three miles past the Pennington County line, then disappeared."

Citizens in Montana also saw mysterious flying objects.

UFO Affects Witness, Truck

● October 18. 12:30 a.m. Near Helena. John T. Struble spotted a large UFO about 50 feet in diameter and 25-30 feet high that flew over his cement truck and hovered approximately 100 yards ahead of him. The object had four green, flashing lights and a spotlight that lit up "the whole canyon... bright as day." The spotlight apparently "paralyzed" the witness and caused his truck to lose "all power." Struble's watch also stopped. The UFO emitted a roaring sound, then soared "straight up into the air and pulled away to the east at an unbelievable speed." The witness said his truck ran normally after the UFO left the area, but his eyes bothered him following the incident. [Sources: *The* (Missoula, Mont.) *Missoulian*, October 21, 1975; the Kalispell, Mont., *Daily Inter Lake*, October 22, 1975; and the Eureka, Mont., *Tobacco Valley News*, October 30, 1975].

● October 21. Approximately 1:30 a.m. McGregor. Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Bruggman heard dogs barking and saw "a very bright white light about 100 feet above the ground," stated the Aitkin, Mont., *Independent*, October 22, 1975. The light came down to the ground and emitted "a funny noise." The UFO's light was extinguished "when a truck passed by on the highway and then it suddenly reappeared." Then the light went off "and two red lights came on." Soon afterward, the UFO disappeared.

California residents continued to have sightings.

● August 12. About 8:15 p.m. Near Gilroy. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bluemmer were watching television when Bluemmer spotted a UFO as he looked out of a window. "The thing ballooned out into a very white light skirting the eastern side of the Santa Cruz range....," Bluemmer related in the August 14, 1975, edition of the San Jose, Calif., *Mercury News*. "It rose and ducked behind a background of trees. The whole sky seemed to light up briefly." Bluemmer called his wife and both watched the strange object emit a red light that "was literally beaming into the valley." The disc "traveled the contour of the mountain and finally disappeared into the cleft of a mountain, seeming to settle there."

● September 30. 3:30 a.m. South of Corning. Tyrone Philips and Hubert Brown observed a disc with a dome that emitted "a bright red light," said the Corning *Daily Observer*, October 16, 1975. Three to five minutes later, the object took off "in the blink of an eye." It emitted "a humming sound and lit up the whole lot like daylight." Cattle in the area were reportedly affected.

● October 16. 8:20 p.m. Allendale-Davis-Vacaville areas. Mary Landeros, her children, and Ned Silver, of Davis, spotted a saucer that "darted off rapidly to the west in a matter of seconds," the *Vacaville Reporter*, October 19, 1975, stated. As the object tilted on its side, the witnesses observed "red, white, blue, green and yellow lights dotting the outline of the saucer." "When it moved," Mrs. Silver recounted, "I could barely even track it 'til it stopped again. When it moved, there was a flash of light and then it was in a different place." Mrs. Sandra Smith and her family, of Allendale, saw it at the same time. Mrs. Smith said it was "dome-like" and "lit all up like a spotlight." The UFO "made a loud whine." Gail Gustafson and her family saw the UFO at about 11 p.m. A half hour earlier, Police Officers Roland M. Depue and Gary E. Gossner also saw the object.

● February 24. About 7 p.m. Sizewell Beach, England. Tom Mayer was walking his dog less than a mile north of the Sizewell Power Station when he saw a UFO approaching him over the sea from the northeast. "Within a second this thing was near me," Mayer remarked in the March 6, 1975, edition of the *East Anglian Daily Times*. "It looked like a big pumpkin. It was green and yellow and had a luminous glow like a television screen." Mayer's dog, Titus, "cowered behind him." The UFO hovered overhead for about 30 seconds and Mayer experienced "a peculiar feeling, like a warm fan." Then the object took off and disappeared to the northeast, leaving "a pungent, acrid smell."

● July 31. Approximately 7:30 a.m. Loxton, South Africa. Davie von Graan observed a saucer "with rounded windows." He saw, inside the UFO, four "beings" with "rather long faces." Three of the creatures appeared to have the witness under observation while the fourth "was busy at an instrument panel of some sort," von Graan remarked in the August 24, 1975, edition of the *Johannesburg, South Africa, Rapport*. "I felt I wanted to get closer," the witness continued, "but some sort of flap near one of the windows opened with a bang and a streak of light shone in my face. I felt very uncomfortable and started to bleed from my nose." He added the occupants were about one and a half meters tall, each weighed 54-58 kilograms, and they had "high foreheads." The object then ascended and disappeared in seconds. There were five marks on the hard ground, "each one a good distance from the other." Each mark measured about two centimeters in width and 10 centimeters in length and were "precisely the same distance from each other."

Observers in Australia witnessed mysterious objects.

● February 26. Lake Sorrell, Tasmania. Two UFOs flying from the northeast approached a former Royal Australian Air Force rear gunner and a companion. One of the objects, estimated to be 200 feet in diameter, flew to within 1,000 yards of the camp. Then it emitted a light beam approximately 100 feet in diameter that seemed "to inspect part of the lake shore and a swamp area," said the Norfolk, Tasmania, *Derwent Valley Gazette*, April 30, 1975. Lake Sorrell was again the site of a UFO encounter on March 14. Five fishermen were preparing a camp meal when they saw a UFO rise from behind some trees between the witnesses and the lake. It "took off like a bullet."

● March 7. 9:25 a.m. Ipswich. Maj. J. Kelly, a medical technologist, and his assistant, Pvt. Keith Newman, observed a brilliant, yellow-orange light moving fast toward Ipswich. "While we watched, it turned west and changed from a cylindrical shape to a round shape," Maj. Kelly said in the March 8, 1975, edition of *The (Queensland, Australia) Courier Mail*. "This was nothing like a conventional aircraft." Kelly estimated the object to be 300 feet long and flying at a speed of 1,500 m.p.h.

UFOs: AN OVERVIEW

by Stanton T. Friedman

[Mr. Friedman is the only space scientist anywhere known to be devoting full time to UFOs. As a nuclear physicist, he has 14 years of industrial experience concerning nuclear aircraft, fission and fusion rockets, and nuclear power plants for space and terrestrial applications. He is a member of several prominent professional societies both here and abroad and was technical adviser on the NBC-TV movie, *The UFO Incident* (see *UFO Research Newsletter*, Vol. IV, No. 8, p. 7). Mr. Friedman has appeared on hundreds of television and radio programs from coast to coast. In this article for *UFOR*, he presents a capsule version of his views -- after nearly two decades of study -- on the UFO subject].



Stanton T. Friedman

After 17 years of study and investigation, I am convinced the evidence is overwhelming that Planet Earth is being visited by extraterrestrial [ET] spacecraft. Since I have been lucky enough to have been able to devote the last five years to full-time involvement with UFOs and because I have presented "Flying Saucers ARE Real" to more than 300 campuses in 45 states and three provinces, I have also reached a number of other conclusions about UFOs, technology, public attitudes, and so-called scientific skepticism. These are covered in depth in my papers and summarized here.

1. There are no good arguments to be made against the conclusion that *some* UFOs are someone else's spacecraft. Some skeptics may be well intentioned, but they are almost always ignorant of the significant scientific data indicating

UFO reality. They read the newspapers, not the solid information. They are unaware of the myriad of landing trace cases from all over the world, the multitude of humanoid reports and abductions, the numerous scientific studies indicating that trips to nearby stars in our galactic neighborhood are already feasible with round trip times shorter than 60 years and without violating the laws of physics or invoking science fiction techniques. I have found that, if one scratches a skeptic, one usually finds someone ignorant of the relevant data.

2. Among the general public, the "laughter curtain" has gradually been rising. Most people are ready to listen to the scientific facts and data which I present and to agree with my conclusions. Further, I have found that the older and less well educated the individual, the less likely he is to believe in UFOs -- in agreement with all the polls. The notion that most thinking people and most scientists don't believe in UFOs is pure fiction, concocted and repeated over and over again by ancient academicians and naysaying newsmen who form a small but very vocal minority full of false platitudes, illogical reasoning and usually egotistical notions about their own knowledge and importance. They are sure that if flying saucers were real they, in their infinite wisdom, would know all about it because the aliens would, of course, have already visited with them. No visits -- no reality.

3. There is every indication that the U.S. government -- and other governments as well -- has covered up loads of the best cases involving the data obtained by our military radar and aircraft. Such a coverup by our government and the others of this troubled planet reeking with nationalistic power plays makes very good sense from the government's viewpoint. Anybody who thinks secrets can't be kept because occasionally some leak out is being unrealistic and is probably not really up on classification or the penalties for breaking security. Having spent 14 years as a nuclear physicist working almost entirely on classified development programs, I am convinced that the whole UFO subject is really a kind of cosmic Watergate crying out for a Daniel Ellsberg and the same media effort that went into uncovering the political Watergate.

4. The vehement skeptics whose emotional antipathy toward UFOs is clear, such as Isaac Asimov, Ben Bova, Arthur Clarke, and Philip Klass, don't have a good anti-UFO argument among them. Much of what these four have written about UFOs must be considered fiction posing as fact and pseudo-science rather than science.

5. It is time for all of those who have studied the relevant data to speak up and not hide behind "invisible colleges" and private, rather than public, pronouncements. If we don't speak out, the skeptics' views will rule. The future of the planet may depend upon our courage.

[Editor's note: Following is a partial list of Friedman's upcoming lecture schedule: February 18, 8 p.m., Ft. Hays, Kans., State College, Hays; February 24, 8 p.m., University of Tulsa, Okla.; March 2, 8 p.m., Robert Morris College, Pittsburgh, Pa.; March 5, 10 a.m., Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa.; March 9, 8 p.m., West Valley College, Saratoga, Calif.; March 12, 7:30 p.m., Johnson City Community College, Overland Park, Kans.; March 16, 8 p.m., University of Texas, Odessa; March 18, 8 p.m., East Carolina State University, Greenville, N.C.; March 29, 7:30 p.m., Napa College, Napa, Calif.; April 5, 8 p.m., Emory and Henry College, Emory, Va.; April 6, 8 p.m., Dalton Junior College, Dalton, Ga.; April 12, 7 p.m., University of California, La Jolla; April 21, 8 p.m., Skyline College, San Bruno, Calif.;

and May 26, 8 p.m., Ohio State University, Mansfield. Anyone wishing to book Friedman for a lecture engagement at his college or university may call him collect (station-to-station) anytime at 415-471-0160 or write him at 31628 Trevor Ave., Hayward, Calif. 94544].

UFOs AND CATTLE MUTILATIONS

For many months now, residents throughout the U.S. have reported strange cattle mutilations. There have also been a number of UFO sightings in the vicinities of these bizarre incidents, some on the same days that the grotesquely mutilated animals have been found. The prevailing theory is that some mysterious cult is at work, but the UFO connection cannot be summarily dismissed. If a cult is responsible, it is improbably widespread. The mutilated cattle have been reported from at least 17 states: California, Colorado, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming.

"The manner in which the cattle have been mutilated has remained fairly consistent throughout the many geographical areas involved," stated Bruce Kennedy, of UFOR's New Mexico Subcommittee, in a report to UFOR. "The majority of the animals have had the left eye, left ear, lips, tongue, rectum, and/or sex organs severed from their bodies."

Kennedy added that, since April, 1975, more than 150 such cases have been reported from Colorado alone. A recurrent characteristic is a "complete lack of blood" in the dead animals.

"No blood has been observed on the ground around the animal," Kennedy continued, "around the wound the animal receives, or within the animal itself.... Another unusual aspect is the lack of any tire tracks or human footprints at or near the discovery sites, even though, in many cases, the ground was soft or muddy.... Citizens are becoming increasingly concerned. Authorities in some areas claim that local residents are buying small arsenals and are forming armed patrols. One Clayton, N.M., rancher even vowed to shoot down any aircraft that flies over his ranch. The Nebraska National Guard has issued orders for their helicopters to fly at over 1,000 feet instead of the normal 500 foot altitude. This came about after some low flying aircraft were shot at by irate ranchers."

There was a rash of dead cattle and UFO reports during the period September-November, 1975. Following is a chronological listing.

- September. In a singular departure from the usual dead cattle reports, a mutilated female goat was found in Pueblo, Colo. That same morning a boy reported "seeing a strange light in the sky."

- October 5. 8:02 p.m. Denver, Colo., authorities said they tracked UFOs on radar.

- October 6. Newcastle, Wyo. A UFO was seen near where a mutilated cow was found. Beside the cow "was a circle two feet in diameter where the grass was a different color." The animal's "whole udder area was removed, except for one nipple." The tongue was also missing. The flank and lower lip areas of the cow and samples of the yellow grass were sent to the state crime laboratory for analysis.

- October 7. Evening. Newcastle. A woman saw a UFO west of town. Weston County Sheriff Willis Larson and two other law enforcement officers investigated and observed an "orange colored light" that was "about the size of an airplane."

- October 8. Evening. Palermo, Calif. Louie De Camp saw a "bright blue light in the sky." Other witnesses also reported seeing UFOs.

- October 9. Evening. Palermo. A UFO "in the shape of a cross" was seen.

- October 10. 4:15-4:45 a.m. Palermo. A newborn calf was found mutilated. Harley Stout and another man said they witnessed objects in the sky that "did all kinds of fancy maneuvers." At 5:15 a.m., a local resident saw red and green lights attached to an object 20-30 feet long. The calf "was drained of its blood and had its sexual organs cut out from the inside after the rear quarters were skinned."

- October 13. Colfax County, N.M. A sexually mutilated bull was found on the ranch of Alvin Stockton, a prominent rancher and former Republican state legislator. There was no blood at the site.

- October 27-29. Witnesses in the Clayton-Nara Visa-Tucumcari, N.M., areas saw "mysterious helicopters." Local Air Force (AF) base authorities said they had no aircraft in the area during the incidents. UFOs were also seen in the Armistad-Hayden-Sedan areas in late

October and early November. U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (R.-N.M.) and other congressmen in the state called for investigations. Police, National Guard and other officials were put on alert.

- November 1. Near Belen, N.M. A cow was found with its female organs "sliced away."
- November 6. About 8 p.m. Patch Grove, Wisc. A farmer said "a ball of light hovered on top of [a] hill and lit up the whole valley." Investigators from Dr. J. Allen Hynek's Center for UFO Studies learned a 500-pound Holstein was discovered in a Patch Grove pasture, with "its left ear and tongue cut off by a sharp instrument."

[Additional sources: *The Weekly*, September 15, 1975; University of Wyoming *Branding Iron*, October 10, 1975; Lincoln, Nebr., *Journal*, October 11, 1975; *Albuquerque (N.M.) Journal*, October 14, 1975; *Sacramento (Calif.) Bee*, October 28, 1975; Oroville, Calif., *Mercury-Register*, October 29, 1975; Dubuque, Iowa, and East Dubuque, Ill., *Telegraph Herald*, November 9, 1975; and unidentified newspaper clippings dated November 2, 4, 6, and 7, 1975].

NEW BOOK OFFERS INSIGHTS INTO SCIENTIFIC THINKING



Dr. J. Allen Hynek

(Courtesy: Henry Regnery Co.)

Hynek was associate director of the Smithsonian Astrophysical Laboratory from 1956-60 and headed the U.S. satellite optical tracking program: "I certainly know that in the satellite tracking mission we got a number of things that appeared on the films that were never tracked down; they weren't part of the mission! A person who says that the Baker-Nunn cameras never picked up anything is just dead wrong because I know they did. I was in charge of the project!"

The Northwestern University astronomer has also photographed a UFO. The picture is reproduced in the book.

The Edge of Reality, by Drs. J. Allen Hynek, director of the Center for UFO Studies, and Jacques Vallee, of Stanford University's Computer Laboratory, offers some interesting insights into the thinking of two of the top UFO scientists. Most of the book is in the form of "brainstorming" sessions between the authors and Arthur C. Hastings, "a specialist in the psychology of communication" and a parapsychology researcher. Many readers will derive little that is new from these sessions (indeed, much of this will be reminiscent of similar sessions many of us have had), but they are interesting, nonetheless. Some of the authors' observations are worth reiterating.

Vallee: the behavior of ETs "*is not consistent either with what you would expect from space visitors or with what we know about physics. That's the dilemma.*" (Italics original).

Hynek addressing the question as to why there have been no UFO crashes or why no proven hardware has been found: "If you were a bushman in Australia, how many parts of a Boeing 747 would you be picking up?... Think of the thousands of commercial planes flying daily over the U.S., yet years go by without a single crash."

Vallee: "Isn't it interesting that most of our colleagues pick one case here and one case there, either good or bad, and that is everything they know about the subject. They will ignore 15,000 cases because of one particular case they know."

"Here I was, in a commercial aircraft at 33,000 feet, suddenly seeing a strange object I could not immediately identify," Hynek stated. "Oddly enough, I didn't think of it as a 'UFO.' I had my camera... and I thought, 'Here is a good chance to practice in case I ever see a UFO!' And so I... shot two pictures... I never thought of it at the moment as anything but man-made... I didn't pause to ask myself, 'What's it doing up here at 33,000 feet?'... It wasn't until later that I said to myself, 'Well, gee, I can't explain this thing!'"

There is one particularly striking UFO case in the book -- brought to the attention of the Center for UFO Studies by a United Nations medical doctor in Ethiopia. At 11:30 a.m., August 7, 1970, in Saladare, Ethiopia, local villagers heard an "earsplitting" noise and saw a "red glowing ball" that "swept through the village destroying houses in its path." The UFO uprooted trees, burned grass, melted asphalt on a road, and broke a stone wall "to pieces." Then it hovered over a hill and traveled back over the same route, demolishing other houses. The medical doctor took about 40 photographs of the destruction, some of which are included in the book. The doctor added that "*50 buildings got damaged, eight people injured, one little child died.*" (Authors' italics).

Unfortunately, Hynek spends an inordinate amount of time defending his position of not "rocking the boat" while he was chief scientific UFO consultant to the AF. He states that "if there were another Blue Book today, with the data I've got and the things I could show, I would not be afraid." The astronomer also indicates that, during his Michigan "swamp gas" press conference in March, 1966, he was not feeling well -- his jaw was broken and wired! Thus the reason for his bad handling of the conference. He says that "I still think the smart thing to do was to just bide my time -- wait around and sooner or later the climate would change..." The point, of course, is that Hynek initially did nothing to help change the climate. When it finally did change, he jumped on the bandwagon.

UFO Organizations Accused of Hiding Data

The authors also have little good to say about the UFO organizations, including the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). They indicate these organizations actually hide important data because of "inter-organizational feuds." Their newsletters, the authors believe, are of little or no scientific value because they are the "club activities" type of publications. In the words of Vallee, the UFO organizations are not playing "a scientific role but a sociological role." An obvious remark to this is where were the authors during the "lean years" of the 1950s and early 1960s, when such groups as NICAP and APRO were the only entities responsible for keeping the whole subject alive?

Likewise, Hynek and Vallee don't think much of most of the UFO literature, including the books by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe, former NICAP director. They do have praise for John G. Fuller's works and Hynek calls Dr. David Saunders' *UFOs? Yes!* "a classic."

Hynek does admit that his impression of NICAP "was completely soured and prejudiced" by Project Blue Book personnel and "Keyhoe was presented as a scoundrel and a mountebank." Blue Book officials, he says, called "key congressmen... and told them not to pay any attention" to Keyhoe.

Despite the sometimes subjective overtones and a slight impression that only the authors and a handful of others are the only people doing any meaningful work in the field, the book is an interesting and somewhat unique addition to UFO literature.

(A book review by Gordon Lore).

[J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallee, *The Edge of Reality; A Progress Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (Chicago: Henry Regnery Co., 1975), 301 pgs., Paperback, \$5.95, Hardback, \$14.95, Photographs, Appendices, Index].

UFO Research Newsletter, Vol. IV, No. 11, April-May, 1976, will be ready for mailing on or about April 15.

Please send us any change of addresses.